

**VETERANS, MILITARY & HOMELAND SECURITY  
2014 COMMITTEE ROSTER**

Senator Ed Harbison, Chairman  
District 15  
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Columbus, Georgia 31902  
(404) 656-0074

Senator Hunter Hill, Vice Chairman  
District 6  
2451 Cumberland Parkway  
Suite 3439  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339  
(404) 463-2518

Senator Mike Dugan, Secretary  
District 30  
106 Champion Drive  
Carrollton, Georgia 30116  
(404) 656-0036

Senator Gail Davenport  
District 44  
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Jonesboro, Georgia 30237  
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Senator Emanuel Jones  
District 10  
P.O. Box 370244  
Decatur, Georgia 30037  
(404) 656-0502

Senator Bruce A. Thompson  
District 14  
25 Hawks Branch Lane  
White, GA 30184-3244  
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## **VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**2014**

1. Quorum of the committee shall be four (4) members.
2. The Chairperson shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairperson shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Subcommittees in turn shall have authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee at such time as shall be designated by the chairperson. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
4. The committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the chairperson.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. Any member or members of the committee who disagrees with the majority report of the committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the committee.
8. Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
9. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
10. The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
11. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
February 25, 2014**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 11:33 a.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15<sup>th</sup> presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman  
Senator Bruce Thompson, 14<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>

Member absent:

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests, and introducing all committee members. He announced that Senate Bills 381 and 276 were on the agenda.

**SB 381 (Senator Beach, 21<sup>st</sup>) - "Georgia First Informer Broadcasters Act"; provide planning for first informer broadcasters; definitions**

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 38-3-57 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the establishment of a standardized, verifiable, performance based unified incident command system for emergencies, so as to provide planning for first informer broadcasters in the unified incident command system and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan; to provide a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Senator Beach introduced his bill stating that this bill directs the unified incident command system and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan to establish specific planning for first informer broadcasters.

Speakers in support of the bill: Randy Gravley and Joseph Brannan with Georgia Association of Broadcasting

Mr. Gravley and Mr. Brannan spoke on the bill and on behalf of the Georgia Association of Broadcasting. They have met with Senator Beach and support the legislation.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Senator Hunter Hill that **SB 381 Do Pass**. Senator Gail Davenport seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1. Senator Mike Dugan voted no on the bill.

Senator Harbison took a moment to introduce and thank Commissioner Pete Wheeler who was present at the meeting.

**SB 276 (Senator Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>) State Government; provide that Georgia shall be a "Purple Heart State"**

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other state symbols, so as to provide that Georgia shall be a "Purple Heart State"; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill 276 was introduced and explained by Senator Harbison. This bill is a simple bill that designates Georgia as a "Purple Heart State," honoring our combat wounded veterans for their service and sacrifice in allowing the United States of America to maintain its sovereignty.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Senator Hunter Hill that **SB 276 Do Pass**. Senator Bruce Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Each member supported the resolution and thanked Senator Harbison for bringing it before the committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Bruce Thompson, 14<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
March 13, 2014**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 10:14 a.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15<sup>th</sup> presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Members absent:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>

Senator Bruce Thompson, 14<sup>th</sup>

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests and announced that this meeting would be a hearing only.

Senator Harbison introduced Mr. Roger Wise. Mr. Wise spoke about the Veterans Outreach/Education Program that is now being offered at Georgia Perimeter College and DeKalb Technical College. DeKalb Technical College has established a letter of academic understanding with the University of Phoenix. This program allows and encourages all veterans in the program to continue a seamless transition to a Bachelor or higher degree.

For those who are ready for the standard/traditional college experience, they join the Perimeter Family. For the student who would better be served in the technical arena, they are advised to attend the Technical College. They encourage and advise their students to stay in the University System. If the student chooses to go to work and become a non-traditional student, they are on their own. They are reviewing the relationship that the technical colleges have established with the University of Phoenix.

Mr. Wise thanked Senator Harbison for his leadership and guidance through the years. He stated that the Veterans Education Programs will allow us to better ourselves through education and hopefully become a nationwide program.

Senator Harbison highly supported the program and thanked Mr. Wise for attending the meeting. His hard work is greatly appreciated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

March 20, 2014

Honorable David Cook  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol 353  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Secretary Cook:

Included with the minutes of the Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee meetings for the 2014 legislative session, I am returning the following Senate Bills and Resolutions:

[SB 244](#)

[SB 208](#)

[SB 252](#)

[SB 144](#)

[SB 148](#)

[SR 528](#)

Sincerely,

/s/ Cyndi Williams  
Recording Secretary  
Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee